

# Ross Is Through As Chief of Dry Forces in Jersey

news-8/23/29

(Continued from First Page)

Doran, and three months ago today Doran, in his own words, "put him on the carpet." He was given to understand at that time that his retention in office in New Jersey, of which he appeared highly desirous, was strictly conditioned upon more energy and a "tightening up" of the beer situation. From the prohibition unit standpoint it was made known here unmistakably today Ross has not made good as to the orders Doran gave him.

## Calhoun Suspends Fighting Dry Men

William J. Calhoun suspended Ludo C. Pickett, assistant administrator in charge of permits, and Abraham Miller, chief inspector, within an hour after he assumed charge of the New Jersey prohibition unit here today.

Calhoun, who is acting deputy com-



William J. Calhoun.

missioner of prohibition, presented credentials from Washington that made him acting administrator. Pickett and Miller engaged in a fist fight in the dry office in the Industrial Office building Tuesday. Miller made an informal complaint against Pickett in First Precinct Court.

Suspension of Pickett and Miller was confirmed by Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Lowman at Washington. Calhoun was sent here from Washington Wednesday to investigate the fight—and general conditions at the Newark office.

### Ousting Rumors Renewed.

Calhoun took over control of the office from L. J. Kusters, legal adviser, who has been acting administrator in the absence of Captain Edwin S. Ross, administrator. Captain Ross is on vacation and is not expected to return until September 5.

Although the quarrel between Pickett and Miller was the direct reason for the investigation, a probe has been considered for some time. Washington dry officials have been informed several times that friction and bad feeling existed in the New Jersey unit.

### Familiar with N. J.

Familiarity of Calhoun with the prohibition situation here was the reason for his assignment. The quarrel between Miller and Pickett is admitted to be detrimental to enforcement work but Washington officials also believe there may be something behind the altercation more important than the fight itself.

As chief of special agents in New York, Calhoun several times has led important raids in New Jersey. He also was in charge of the apprehension a year ago of three New Yorkers who offered a \$10,000 bribe to William H. Kennedy, then assistant administrator in charge of permits. With the aid of dictophones, Calhoun secured evidence as the money was offered in a room in the Robert Treat Hotel.